

10 Ways to Become a Successful Foster Parent

- 1. Learn as much as you can about pet care.** Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for that animal. Read about feeding, grooming, and training. Study the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs veterinary attention. Ask questions we are here to help you.
- 2. Make your home pet friendly.** Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you “pet-proof” your home. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect your floors and furnishings. Your foster needs to be isolated from your pets for the first 10 days, so their room needs to be comfortable and free from drafts. Also, take steps to prevent animal from escaping.
- 3. Keep your pets up-to-date on their vaccinations.** All resident animals should be current on the vaccinations that protect them from diseases. Before you start fostering, consult with your veterinarian to make sure that your pets have received the preventative treatment they need.
- 4. Give your foster lots of attention and affection.** The animal(s) that you are fostering have special needs that require time and energy. The animal may have lived a difficult life before coming to your home; your love and attention will help the animal’s physical and psychological needs.
- 5. Keep foster animals away from your own pets for the two weeks.** A foster animal may come in to your house harboring a contagious disease. Even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it’s a good idea to keep the foster animals away from your pets as an added protection.
- 6. Recognize your limits.** Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy- both emotional and physical. Don’t overextend yourself by fostering too frequently; you may burn yourself out.
- 7. Understand that some foster animals will not survive.** Many animals that arrive at the Humane Society come from an unknown background. Despite your best efforts, the animal that you foster may develop an illness or condition that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animal, but accept the fact you cannot save them all.
- 8. Return the animal to the Humane Society/SPCA on time.** We depend on you to make the foster program work. If you decide to adopt an animal you foster, you must go thru the regular adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt your foster animal, they must follow our adoption procedures as well.
- 9. Enjoy being a foster parent.** Although fostering takes a great deal time and commitment, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. You are temporarily providing a loving home and environment and helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible, lifelong home.
- 10. The rewards of fostering include lots of tail wags, kisses and purrs. Thank you for opening up your heart and home to an orphaned animal.**

WE PROVIDED YOU WITH FOOD, CAT LITTER, CRATE, BEDDING, MEDICATIONS, AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS. ARE YOU READY TO SUPPLY TIME, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND LOTS OF TENDER LOVING CARE?

For more information call Sarah Rihn (210) 643-8518 or email Foster@humanesocietyspca.org